

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1 and 9-14 and ADD new claim 15 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A gateway system relaying a request from a user for a service provided by another system, the gateway system ~~characterized by comprising~~:
 - an authentication unit which receives the request and authenticates the user;
 - a service request unit which makes the request to said another system on behalf of the user based on a result of an authentication by said authentication unit by accessing said another system via an Internet using a URL specifying said another system, using link information and authentication information corresponding to the requested service; and
 - an information link unit which incorporates link information concerning the gateway system into link information included in returned data corresponding to the request.
2. (ORIGINAL) The gateway system as claimed in claim 1, characterized by having a plurality of systems each including said authentication unit, said service request unit, and said information link unit, the systems being provided in a hierarchical structure.
3. (ORIGINAL) The gateway system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that:
 - said service request unit comprises a table in which accessible service information retained by the user is entered, and makes the request for a service on behalf of the user when the service is accessible to the user.
4. (ORIGINAL) The gateway system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that:
 - said service request unit comprises a table in which an option ID serving as a billing unit is entered in correspondence to the system providing the service, and transmits the option ID in making the request.
5. (ORIGINAL) The gateway system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that:

said information link unit converts the link information included in the returned data into the link information concerning the gateway system, the link information included in the returned data being included in control information set in the returned data, the control information including access information of the user to a WWW server.

6. (ORIGINAL) The gateway system as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that:

said information link unit converts the link information included in the returned data into the link information concerning the gateway system, the link information included in the returned data being included in control information set in the returned data, the control information including access information of the user to a WWW server.

7. (ORIGINAL) The gateway system as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that:

said information link unit converts the link information included in the returned data into the link information concerning the gateway system, the link information included in the returned data being included in control information set in the returned data, the control information including access information of the user to a WWW server.

8. (ORIGINAL) The gateway system as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that:

said information link unit converts the link information included in the returned data into the link information concerning the gateway system, the link information included in the returned data being included in control information set in the returned data, the control information including access information of the user to a WWW server.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium ~~comprising:~~
having a program which causes a computer to execute the steps-operations of:

~~(a)-~~authenticating a user upon receiving a request for a service from the user;

~~(b)-~~making the request to said another system on behalf of the user based on a result of authenticating the user by accessing said another system via an Internet using a URL specifying said another system, using link information and authentication information corresponding to the requested service; and

~~(c)-~~incorporating link information concerning a gateway system into link information included in returned data corresponding to the request.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in

claim 9, ~~characterized in that: wherein making the request to said another system said step (b)~~
~~comprises~~ includes use of a table in which accessible service information retained by the user is
entered, and ~~makes~~ making the request for a service on behalf of the user when the service is
accessible to the user.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in
claim 9, ~~characterized in that: wherein making the request to said another system said step (b)~~
~~comprises~~ includes use of a table in which an option ID serving as a billing unit is entered in
correspondence to a system providing the service, and ~~transmits~~ transmitting the option ID in
making the request.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in
claim 9, ~~characterized in that: wherein incorporating the link information includes converting said~~
~~step (c) converts~~ the link information included in the returned data into the link information
concerning the gateway system, the link information included in the returned data being included
in control information set in the returned data, the control information including access
information of the user to a WWW server.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in
claim 10, ~~characterized in that: wherein incorporating the link information includes converting~~
~~said step (c) converts~~ the link information included in the returned data into the link information
concerning the gateway system, the link information included in the returned data being included
in control information set in the returned data, the control information including access
information of the user to a WWW server.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in
claim 11, ~~characterized in that: wherein incorporating the link information includes converting~~
~~said step (c) converts~~ the link information included in the returned data into the link information
concerning the gateway system, the link information included in the returned data being included
in control information set in the returned data, the control information including access
information of the user to a WWW server.

15. (NEW) A method of relaying a request for a service provided by another system,
comprising:

requesting for the service provided by said another system on behalf of an authenticated user upon receiving the user's request including a URL specifying said another system; and
accessing said another system using the URL, link information and authentication information corresponding to the requested service and incorporating the link information in data returned to the user.